## ADA Advisory Council Meeting Minutes October 5, 2011

The Jackson ADA Advisory Council meeting was held in the Hood Bldg. Members attending this meeting were: Lee Cole, Chairperson; Sam Gleese, City ADA Coordinator; Dr. Scott Crawford, Karen Robinson, Namon Hulitt (AARP) and Jason Bunch. Non-voting members and guests attending were: Kay Hardage, Esq. (Disability Rights of MS), Evelyn Pittman (City of Jackson Public Transit Division), Sergeant Perry Martin (JPD), Willie Cook, Jr., Fred Myers and Larry Smith (CMPDD).

- I. Lee Cole called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.
- II. Members and guests introduced themselves and the minutes of the September meeting was read by Karen Robinson. The minutes were approved.

## **Old Business**

- III. Lee Cole stated that the Transition Plan needs further review by a sub-committee of the ADA Council members to ensure that it addresses more than merely physical accessibility, but "PROGRAM and Services" accessibility. Dr. Scott Crawford added that whereas the limited number of building assessments he has reviewed thus far are well done, it will take more time and/or people to review the building accessibility surveys that the City submitted. Dr. Scott Crawford asked that others to help him in reviewing those documents, adding that Ms. Sikes from the MSCCD and Christy Dunaway at LIFE are also in the subcommittee to review these reports. However, building accessibility constitutes only part of a self-evaluation. A complete survey and inventory of public rights-of-way has yet to be submitted, and there is as yet no plan to address the City's streets and sidewalks.
- IV. Sam Gleese informed us that the ADA Committee By-laws are being reviewed by Mayor Johnson and thereby has not been approved.
- V. Sam Gleese informed the committee needs two (2) more members to join, especially, someone to record the minutes. A veteran is now being considered. There are also ongoing efforts to recruit someone from the deaf community.

## **New Business**

VI. Larry Smith from the Central Mississippi Planning and Development Department (CMPDD) informed us of the duties of CMPDD. He expressed a willingness to

work with people in the disability community to develop a Metropolitan Transportation Plan that meets the needs of older adults, people with lower incomes, and the disabled. For any detailed information, please visit the website <a href="https://www.CPPDD.org">www.CPPDD.org</a> Larry Smith informed us that a public meeting will be held on November 9, 2011 in the conference room behind the Sports Museum, 1170 Lakeland Dr. The mayors of MS cities located in the Central District will be meeting on November 15, 2011.

- VII. Sgt. Perry Martin of the JPD informed us about the Special Programs Department. This department helps the neighborhoods by having meetings and activities, (e.g., how to protect their homes from burglaries, giving women self-protection courses, tips on safety awareness, etc.). He stated that he would like to attend our meetings on a regular basis.
- VIII. Dr. Crawford briefly summarized a review of Mary C. Jones Community Center on Martin Luther King Blvd. The original report done several years ago indicated no wheelchair accessible entrance. Crawford asked to review the building for that reason. Ms. Sikes, Dr. Scott Crawford, and Rev. Sam Gleese visited the center on September 27<sup>th</sup> for several houses. Sikes and Crawford agreed with most of the previous evaluator's recommendations, but a couple of recommendations were added/modified as a result of this "second look". First, there is a marginally accessible (though not technically perfect) entrance adjacent to the Auditorium on the North side that is currently not being used by the general public...it should be. Signage should indicate this as being the most accessible of entrances, although the slope from the street does not meet ADA specifications (1:12), and the door threshold is not sufficiently flush. Dr. Scott Crawford added that a new parking area could be constructed adjacent to the Auditorium entrance that would provide more level access from vehicles and handicapped parking. It doesn't solve the slope problem from the street (e.g., pedestrian access), which will require a switchback ramp. Finally, the recent addition of a wooden ramp in the breezeway has an unacceptable threshold, and leads to a locked barbed wire fence...not an acceptable situation. Once that ramp transition is made flush, it should serve as an emergency egress, but not the main accessible entrance.

## IX. Announcements

a) Disability Awareness Month is October and festivities will include Disability Awareness Day sponsored by the City of Jackson, Human and Cultural Services, the state Commission on Volunteer Services and several disability organizations (LIFE, PA, Miss. Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities and Miss. Brain Injury Assoc.) Held on Oct 12 @ the Jackson Medical Mall from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.. The Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities annual

Conference will be October 13-14 and several other organizations will be having activities.

The next meeting will be held on November 2 @ 1 p.m. in the Hood Bldg. The meeting was adjourned by 2:35 p.m.

These Minutes were prepared by Karen Robinson and Scott Crawford.

These Minutes were approved by the ADA Council at the November 2, 2011, meeting.